

# Summary

## Forecasting the demand on the Dutch justice system until 2013

This report describes the forecasting results of the 'demand' for police, prosecution service, courts and prisons until the end of 2013. The forecasts are made using the forecasting model developed for the Dutch criminal justice system and the civil and administrative justice systems (PMJ). The base year for our forecasts was 2006. Legislative and policy changes after 2006 have therefore not been incorporated into these forecasts.

The PMJ model is based on developments in society outside the sphere of influence of the Ministry of Justice. The basic underlying assumption of the model is that developments in society drive trends in crime and private disputes. Four groups of factors can be distinguished: changes in the demographic structure of the population, economic conditions, social problems and institutional changes. Within each category, a number of background factors are chosen that, taken together, indicate problems like social inequality, culture conflict, social isolation and economic inequality.

The demographic determinants used in the PMJ model are: the size of the population, population density, the number of migrants in various age categories, the number of youngsters (in the four main cities), the number of emigrants and the number of young men. The economic determinants are the unemployed and employed labour force, average yearly income, purchasing power, the number of unemployment and other social benefits, gross added value, tax burden, rents, the total costs of lawyers, the cost price of lawyers and the number of motor vehicles. The social determinants are the number of children involved in divorce proceedings, the yearly number of divorcees, the number of rented houses and the number of people belonging to a religious or philosophical belief. The institutional factors are the number of police officers, the police budget, the number of lawyers and people's own contribution when applying for subsidized legal aid.

External forecasts of these indicators determine the forecasts for developments in the justice system. If there are no policy changes or new legislation, the number of reported crimes is expected to increase by 2 percent over the period 2007-2013, but the number of suspects will rise by 11 percent. This will affect the chain partners that follow in criminal justice system, but this growth cannot be extrapolated in a straightforward fashion. As charges will not be pressed against all suspects, the inflow of cases into the prosecutorial system will rise with only 7 percent.

The number of transactions with the public prosecutor and the number of summonses will keep pace with the inflow into the prosecutorial system. This in turn will lead to an increase of applications for subsidized legal aid. Because of

improved economic conditions less people will be eligible. The demand for prison capacity for adults will be 11 percent higher in 2013 than in 2007. Although the number of long prison sentences is decreasing, the number of short prison sentences is increasing. There will be a 19 percent higher demand for prison capacity for minors.

The number of new civil cases at the district courts will increase with 18 percent in the period 2007-2013, while the number of new civil cases at the subdistrict courts will increase with 29 percent. Also the number of civil cases in appeal will rise with about 20 percent. The number of civil cases before the Supreme Court will remain the same. The number of new administrative cases (excluding tax cases) at the district courts will increase with 15 percent in the period 2007-2013. The number of tax cases in first instance will rise by 34 percent, while the number of appeals will remain the same. The number of applications for subsidized legal aid in civil and administrative cases is expected to rise by 22 percent.

A word of caution is in order. These forecasts are based on the information available at the moment of calculation. Both the forecasting process and the external forecasts of the determinants are surrounded by uncertainty. For this reason, these forecasts should be seen as no more than a signal about what could happen if nothing changes, rather than as prophecies. Unexpected events and new policy or legislation will alter the outcomes.